setting up of Private Bonded Warehouses by foreign departmental stores, Star Trading Houses , Super Star Trading Houses, Such a warehouses can procure goods from domestic suppliers without payment of excise duty. The domestic suppliers would be entitled usual benefit of exports. The move will encourage domestic sourcing of the products by foreign producers.

(c) and (d) Several initiatives have been taken for export promotion and simplification of procedures which amongst others include bonded warehouses for imports, grant of Advance Licence to Actual Users on positive value addition, fixation of DEPB rates as well as grant of Advance Licences on self certification are decentralisation of powers to licensing authorities.

Trade Agreement for the North-Eastern States

2352. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for opening another trade agreement in the international boundary of the North-Eastern States; and

(b) if so, where and with which countries and by when will it be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No. Sir. At present no fresh trade agreement is under consideration of the Government of India on border trade in the international boundary of the north-eastern States of India.

Trade with Indonesia

2353. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Indonesia to buy Non-Basmati Rice and Medicines on loan or Counter Trading Basis; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Based on an indication of interest of Indonesian Government to buy non-basmati rice and medicines on counter trade or loan basis a delegation from the Ministry of Commerce comprising Chief Executives of the Metals & Minerals Trading Corporation Ltd. (STC) and The Projects & Equipment Corporation of India Ltd. (PEC) visited Indonesia on 13-14 July, 1998 and had discussions with the Indonesian authorities. Based on the discussions, Ministry of Commerce have sent a proposal in September, 1998 to Indonesian Government for supply of 5,00,000 MT of non-basmati rice through MMTC on deferred payment basis.

STC has also submitted an offer in August, 1998 to Indonesian authorities for supply of pharmaceutical and medical disposable items. Response of the Indonesian authorities on above proposal is awaited.

Industries functioning in Gujarat

2354. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the industries functioning in Gujarat;

(b) how many out of them are functioning by the private companies;

(c) whether the funds are allocated by Government/State Government/ Voluntary organisation to run these industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government are encouraging the small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) In the State of Gujarat, there are- a total number of 216318 registered Small Scale Industries units and 2196 medium and large scale sector industries, as on 31.7.98.

(b) All small scale industries units are run by private parties and 2151 large